

SHAKER COLLECTION

Item 175

Copy of a letter from Calvin Green
at New Lebanon, N.Y., to William
Bussel, June 29, 1847 (Union
Village, Ohio)

New Lebanon, June 23^d 1847-

Respected Friend

Your letter of the 19th ult, came safe to hand I believe the 3^d day after it was mailed, and I was well pleased with its contents; and return you my thanks for your labor in examining ^{the} original respecting the several passages of scripture which I requested, and the result generally accorded with my anticipations. But as it relates to ~~the~~ ^{the} word Tshi, No. 11, 16. I was informed from a Hebraist, that he had found the word Tshi according to the proper meaning of the Hebrew, signified virgin man; ^{am} I ~~am~~ ^{am} are that there may be variations in different versions of the original, & that there are some ancient explanatory writings extant which are not in common use, but from what source he obtained his information I know not, and as he is now deceased I could not obtain any further knowledge from ^{him} on the subject, hence I wished to learn from ^{you} whether there was any thing in the copy of the original with which you are acquainted that would warrant such an interpretation, and I feel much interested to ^{know} from what source (which I suppose must exist somewhere) such a meaning could be drawn; it is true your explanation accords well with our general interpretations.

Your opinion upon Matt. 19th 12, fully accords with my own, and I am pleased to find that it is so with ^{one} as deeply versed in the original as you are. Respecting II Thes. 4. 17. I had my information from the same man to whom I before allude, and perhaps he had no other source of information than that from which your reasonable conclusions were drawn, which I view as a confirmation.

But there is one passage which I requested you ^{to} examine which I did not find in your answer, ie Matt. 28th 20. "So I am with you always even unto the end of the world." you will find my reasons in the letter, but in substance, is not ^{the} word world rather age or ages, that is the end of that age or the ages of that dispensation of Christianity. There is still another subject ^{of} which I should be pleased to have your examination. If you can find leisure to examine the above two passages & when convenient communicate the result, I shall esteem it as a favor.

Respecting the date ^{when} ~~for~~ the unlimited reign of the papas began, as stated in the Millennial Church, I would inform you, that the connection or period of time with its various events between the ~~first~~ ^{first} and second appearance of Christ, was originally designed to form one of the general parts of the book, and the MS was drafted; but the contract having been made with the printer we found that if it was put in, it would exceed the bounds prescribed and we should have to stop the press, hence it was that best to abridge a short compendium and let that suffice; in doing this it was in haste so worded as to give the idea that the real commencement of the papal

& see p. 2.

reign, was its full and unlimited establishment, this was not however intended but only that Pope Leo properly at that period commenced the ecclesiastical reign of the Papal power, which notwithstanding all checks and obstacles increased until the Pope obtained unlimited power both civil and ecclesiastical. In the original Mss, the matter was more fully stated and the progressive increase of that "little horn" was shown, I had before this

our information was drawn from Newton's Dissertation on the prophecies, vol. i, page 170 &c. and from Mosheim's Ecclesiastical History. vol. ii, but these were not before us at the time, but we took it from, The Testimony of Christ's second appearing, which is very full on the subject. see part IV. We expect the 'Millennial Church' will be reprinted, and that mistake will be corrected & the subject perhaps somewhat more fully treated. I had before discovered a mistake there.

I felt glad that my short account of my Christian experience & its effects, was satisfactory to your feelings, many others among these people could in truth give a similar account. your judicious remarks upon the idea which so extensively prevails, that no new revelations have or will ever be given since the canon of scripture has been supposed to be completed, and those spiritual gifts and inspirations have ceased, are very satisfactory and agreeable to me, & all who have heard them. ^{What witness of soul such testimony bears} Truly it seems that those minds must be ^{who can} as dark as darkness can make them, to believe that a true Church could have existed on earth, thro' all the dark & deplorable scenes of the dark ages, even among all classes of those who professed the Christian name, except a few scattered witnesses who were ^{not} suffered to build in the order of a Church, & whose names have been handed down ^{to posterity} as Heretics. & their writings were destroyed and they were finally destroyed from the earth, by the bloody persecutions & soul darkening principles of the professed Church, & thus become "dead bodies" in ^{the} same streets of destruction. I say to ^{suppose} that this bloody Hierarchy covered with all its abominations which ^{its} own advocates describe as a sink of corruption, was the true Church the only medium to hand down the holy scriptures containing the only light of revelation that shall ever be manifested there time, it require a mind as dark as darkness itself.

But from ^{whence} comes the idea that there is to be no further revelations of the mind and will of god from heaven, than this corrupt Hierarchy have been pleased to hand down as the canon of ^{nor any further ministrations of Heavenly gifts} scripture. All the works of creation from which ^{we} are clearly to see the things of god (see Rom 1. 16) declare to the contrary, for all the productions of nature begin small & they need the continual rains dews & sunshine of the natural heavens to bring them to maturity & produce their fruit, the refreshing & life giving operations of the elements in their first planting will not keep them alive & bring forth their fruit, but they must in proper seasons be continually supplied with these operations or they will wither & die. This figurative ^{shows a suspension of} that all the works of god & the plants that he has planted, must be nourished & supported, by the same Divine revelations & administrations of Heavenly gifts by which they were planted, in Rom 1 X. the following was inadvertently omitted - to go in at this mark X Exodus 6. 3. by my name Jehovah was & not known unto them. By some expositors we are informed, that the name Jehovah, really signifies according to the original, the male & female principles in Deity as well as all the perfections of his nature; can you find any thing to support this interpretation?

due season, that they may thereby increase & grow to maturity & bring forth fruit unto God, and without this they will as surely wither & die, as the plants of the earth without the invigorating operations of the natural heavens.

All the arts & sciences of man begin small & increase by new discoveries or natural revelations of natural principles, and shall the works of God, & the principles of godliness in comparison of which all things else sink into insignificance, alone remain stationary, & no further revelations of their nature & application ever be given from the only source whence they can be received? "For the things of God, knoweth no man but the spirit of God" 1 Cor. 2. 10. Hence if there can be no further revelation from ^{the} spirit of God, there can be no further increase in the knowledge of the things of God, of course no increase of ^{the} Kingdom of Christ. But the scripture declares, that "of the increase of his Kingdom to order it, and establish it, there shall be no end."

* And this was for from fulfilling the promise, that these gifts should be poured out upon all flesh.

The scriptures further declare, that "in the last days, God will pour out his spirit upon all flesh, and your young men shall see visions, - and the servants and handmaids shall prophecy" & surely here is greater ^{scenes of} revelations & out pourings of Heavenly gifts than we have any account of; and the Apostle Peter quotes this prophecy from Joel, and says the gifts that were given at the institution of the primitive Church, was that which was foretold; yet it was but in part fulfilled in that day, "for they knew in part, & prophesied in part, but when which ^{is} perfect was come, that which was in part should be done away." * It remains then that the perfect fulfillment must be in a future and more perfect day. And we bless God that, we have seen the day in which the perfect fulfillment of this glorious prophecy has commenced, and ^{by} its light we are assured that it will continue to increase in heavenly administrations, until the scripture is fulfilled. "The earth shall be full of ^{the} knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the seas" - and all flesh shall see the salvation of God. - See Isa 41, 9 and Luke 11, 6 -

On reading your judicious remarks upon the above subject and several others, such as evidences of true Christianity, a life of purity, the resurrection &c. I was forcibly struck with the words of Christ to the Scribe who answered "discreetly respecting the first and great commandment" - "Thou art not far from the Kingdom of God," as applicable to yourself, one real ^{be} step more and you would be travelling in the road & laboring in the redeeming work of that Kingdom; and that ^{you} may take that step and become a partaker of all the blessings of that Heavenly Kingdom which is surely revealed in this our day, is my sincere prayer to "the Lord of the harvest." Br Philemon Stewart, desired me to inform you that he had safely received your letter of May 20th and was well pleased with its contents; and he thinks he shall probably write an answer at some suitable opportunity, he sends his respects, and good wishes to you, and all those with whom you became acquainted have the ^{same} feelings for you.

It is a general time of health and prosperity in this Society, and there has been a considerable number added to the faith since you was here; and there has also been a considerable number of ^{we may do that} ^{goodly} ^{badly to find} ^{for their souls} ^{in the various branches of this community} ^{in a year past} ^{during} ^{a year past} ^{We hope you may come & see us as you proposed} ^{Please accept with this, the respectful feelings, and good wishes for your prosperity and happiness, here and hereafter, Of your Friend} ^{Calvin Green}

Copy of a Letter to William Bussel.